UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/880
21 April 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda items 8 and 149

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 11 April 1997 (A/51/871) and to inform you of the following.

Today, I received a letter from the United States Representative on the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Victor Marrero, dated 18 April 1997, indicating the position of the host country as regards the second part of the recommendation of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to the General Assembly, which had been transmitted to you in my letter under reference. A copy of the letter of Ambassador Marrero is enclosed herewith (see annex).

I should appreciate it if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 149.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Chairman
Committee on Relations
with the Host Country

ANNEX

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Over the course of the past week, the United States Mission has been in intensive consultations with the United Nations Legal Counsel. Following those consultations, the host country made revisions to those elements of the diplomatic parking programme which, according to the legal opinion of the Legal Counsel, raised concerns. We are confident that the revisions that were made will have satisfied those concerns.

Discussions between Ambassador Bill Richardson and Mayor Rudolf Giuliani regarding these revisions and possible changes the City may wish to make with regard to its portion of the diplomatic parking programme as not yet concluded. As a result, I can therefore confirm that the implementation of the programme, including the elements that, according to the opinion of the Legal Counsel, appear not to be in full compliance with international law, has been deferred.

The host city and the host country will continue to expect, however, that parking tickets received by diplomatic vehicles will be paid unless their validity has been challenged.

(Signed) Victor MARRERO
Ambassador